



# Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

## MINUTES

### INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 2, 2010  
Department of Education  
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room  
151 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:05 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketor, David Shane, Neil Pickett, Steve Gabet, Mike Pettibone, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Vicki Snyder, James Edwards, and Daniel Elsener were present.

#### I. **Call to Order**

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### II. **Approval of the Minutes**

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval of the minutes. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### III. **Statement of the Chair**

#### IV. **Spotlight on Learning**

Dr. Bennett said the Spotlight on Learning recognizes the Crawford County Community School Corporation, and he introduced Dr. Mark Eastridge, Superintendent. Dr. Eastridge introduced Ms. Tami Geltmaker, Principal, Milltown Elementary School; Ms. Deborah Ade, Principal, English Elementary School; Mr. Michael Key, Principal, Leavenworth Elementary School; and Ms. Debbie Kaiser, School Board President.

Dr. Eastridge said Crawford County's English Elementary is a 2010 nominee for the National Blue Ribbon Program and Milltown Elementary and Leavenworth Elementary were honored with the National Blue Ribbon distinction in 2006 and 2009.

Crawford County Community School Corporation ranks second in the state in the poverty rate among children under 18 but still maintains quality leadership and high expectations for all.

Dr. Bennett said Crawford County School Corporation continues to raise the bar by setting high expectations for students, teachers and administrators and demonstrating the type of “no excuses” attitude that leads to improved instruction and measurable academic achievement.

Mr. Elsener stated for the record that Crawford County School Corporation exudes the art and science of leadership, and their presentation and information is impressive.

#### **V. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Pickett said the presentation from Crawford County School Corporation was indeed impressive and their “no excuses” is a very important message.

Mr. Pickett also discussed the Citizens’ Checklist of Cost Savings Measures for School Corporations and how this is being handled by the corporations. Mr. Pickett said the evidence so far is not very positive, and he is dismayed that we are not seeing more creativity in managing this situation so it will not adversely affect our students.

Mr. Edwards concurred with remarks about Crawford County Community School Corporation and said it was evident that leadership is the key to their success.

#### **VI. Adjudications and Hearings**

#### **VII. Public Comments**

#### **VIII. Discussion**

Lance Rhodes, Chief Financial Officer, discussed the Citizens’ Checklist of Cost Savings Measures for School Corporations. Mr. Rhodes said the checklist was approved by the Board on January 8, subject to some modifications. It was then disseminated with a cover memo on January 15. Most comments received so far have been, “How is the checklist supposed to be used,” and “What are the expectations of the state for the checklist?” Mr. Rhodes said the Department of Education (DOE) has tried to convey the message that this is a resource tool, not a mandate from DOE.

Mr. Rhodes said budget adjustments were made in the January distribution, and the February distribution will include the adjustments for special education. Once the February distributions are out, school corporations will get a real feel for exactly what the monthly distributions will be for the remainder of the year.

A memo was sent to school corporations to let them know this is a reset. We are not going to go back to previously levels of funding, and schools need to understand and adjust accordingly. New plans, thoughts, and business processes need to be developed.

Mr. Rhodes also discussed questions from schools regarding the use of their rainy day funds and the issue of leasing or trying to sell their buildings.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on legislation and said Board members were sent a legislative document with links for each bill listed. February 3 is the deadline for a bill to pass out of the house of origin. Hopefully, by the end of this week the DOE legislative team will have a new list of bills that can be sent to Board members.

Mr. Zaring discussed strategic planning said some items such as the Citizens' Checklist and reading initiative will be revisited every month.

Dr. Bennett said he will discuss the department's 2010 priorities next month. Our Race to the Top application was submitted to the US Department of Education in January. It is a very creative and aggressive plan that DOE is very proud of. Dr. Bennett mentioned under performing schools and said that obtaining RttT funding will not determine the scope or the trajectory of education reform in this state, but it will probably affect the pace.

Dr. Bennett and Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, discussed the growth model. Dr. Bennett said our growth model is a huge piece of our RttT application and that Indiana will be the first state providing teacher views of student growth data.

Mr. Bruce showed a power point presentation and discussed the time line of the growth model. The public release of Phase I is scheduled for February 10, with public access to school level growth and achievement data. On February 26, Phase II will occur, and users will be able to drill down into growth results by student group (10 or greater.) Phase III is scheduled for March 31, with individual student information for schools and teachers. Training and support for all user groups will include online tutorials, WebEx presentations, fact sheets, and enhanced FAQ.

Mrs. Blacketer asked for the record if this is going to be in lieu of adequate yearly progress (AYP)? Mr. Bruce said this is a different view of ISTEP scores and we have now placed a value on the amount of growth that students show, which is something that has been missing. Once the growth model is completely built, the department will look at applying for its use as a part of AYP. Currently no state gets to use a growth model instead of AYP. It is used as a safe harbor under the primary AYP determination.

Mr. Bruce said the calendar for spring ISTEP workshops has been sent out. The WebEx scheduled for February 15 (Presidents Day) has been moved to February 17. Materials have begun arriving this week for the open ended part of ISTEP, which is scheduled for March.

Mr. Zaring discussed accountability and said Indiana is among a minority of states that has the ability to calculate a cohort graduation rate. The US DOE wants every state to be able to do this by the time that state makes AYP determinations based on 2011-2012 assessment data. The US DOE is also checking on how states are doing as far as implementing the elements of the data quality campaign.

Mr. Zaring said the next two things we will be working on will be our new ISTEP trajectory. For purposes of NCLB, the DOE must create the trajectory toward 100 percent proficiency in 2014.

School visits are currently being scheduled to follow up on the quality review visits that were conducted by Cambridge Education. As soon as the dates are known, they will be shared with Board members to see if any members are available to go on those visits. The hope is to have at least one Board member will visit every school corporation.

Mr. Zaring said he attended a meeting with Matt Gandal, Achieve, to discuss a potential accountability framework for college and career readiness.

Anna Shultz and John Wolf, Literacy Specialists, gave an update on the Department's reading initiative. Ms. Shultz and Mr. Wolf discussed issues regarding confusion about what constitutes a comprehensive reading program, the lack of explicit lessons being taught, and the misunderstanding of the importance of progress monitoring.

Comprehensive core reading instruction is provided for all students. It is delivered to both the class as a whole and in small groups. Instruction is differentiated by student need, but materials and lessons from the core program can be used to provide re-teaching or accelerated learning opportunities.

Ms. Shultz said explicit lessons are appropriate instruction for all learners. Also, a key to successful reading achievement is to provide benchmark assessments and ongoing progress monitoring. Intervention instruction should be based on progress monitoring results and delivered by highly qualified teachers.

In anticipation of Indiana's reading framework, the focus of school corporations should include identifying district and school reading leadership teams and developing vision and goals, with a focus on scientific based reading research.

Ms. Shultz discussed the department's plans to ensure successful implementation of the reading initiative, including the following:

- Indiana K-6 reading framework.
- Opportunity schools selection criteria.
- Monthly professional development.
- Building community and parental awareness.
- Higher education partnerships.

Board members discussed research showing that students need a minimum of 90 minutes of uninterrupted reading instruction and daily intervention. Some elementary schools currently have this 90 minute reading instruction time, but many do not.

Board members asked to receive a copy of the list of participants on the reading advisory council.

Trice Black, Elementary Math Consultant, and Cathy Brown, Professor of Math Education, Indiana University, discussed mathematics initiative.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) shows Indiana math scores are leveling off and, in some grade levels, scores may be declining. Ms. Black said a strong understanding of mathematics is critical to success beyond high school by expanding career options and increasing earning power. Indiana students also need to be prepared for long term success, which can be done by teaching them math through process skills.

Current plans for the 2010-2011 school year include emphasizing teaching and learning mathematics for deep understanding and application, looking at the national mathematics advisory panel's algebra benchmarks, and explore options for project-based learning in Algebra I and alternatives for fourth year math.

## **IX. Consent Agenda Items**

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for certification of the Governing Body Selection Plan for Benton Community School Corporation. [Agenda item VI, A]
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of the application period for Common School Fund loans. [Agenda item X, C]

Mr. Pickett moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **X. Action**

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of the 2009 students with disabilities child count.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Mr. Pettibone abstained as to Adams Central Community Schools; Mrs. O'Brien abstained as to Avon Community School Corporation; Mr. Gabet abstained as to East Allen Schools; Dr. Griffith-Adell abstained as to Thea Bowman Leadership Academy; and Ms. Snyder abstained as to Signature School, Incorporated.)

- B. Cathy Blitzer, Education Specialist, presented a request for approval of the American Sign Language standards and introduced Dr. David Geeslin, Superintendent, and John Fenicle, Teacher, School for the Deaf.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Ms. Snyder seconded to motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a new rulemaking process for amendment to 511 IAC 5-1-6.

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **XI. Board Operations**

Dr. Bennett invited Board members to attend the Science Summit, scheduled for February 3 at Lilly Corporation.

Mr. Zaring discussed the NASBE Common Core Standards Conference, scheduled for March 29-30, in Saint Louis, Missouri. Mr. Pettibone said he would like to attend.

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Mr. Elsener moved for adjournment. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.